

ALASKA COUNCIL ON EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

April 20-21, 2000

Juneau

ATTENDANCE

	<u>4/20</u>	<u>4/20</u>	<u>4/21</u>	<u>4/21</u>
<i>ACEMS MEMBER</i>	<i>A.M.</i>	<i>P.M.</i>	<i>A.M.</i>	<i>P.M.</i>
Terry Bunes, EMT	X	X	X	X
Daniel Cox, EMT	X	X	X	X
Don Hudson, DO	A	A	A	A
Charles Lean, EMT, Chairman	X	X	X	X
Steve O'Connor, MICP	X	X	X	X
Karen O'Neill, MD	X	X	X	X
Allan Schlicht, MD	A	A	A	A
Barbara Simonsen, RN	X	X	X	X
Teresa Stone, EMT	X	X	X	X
Dorothy Jones	A	A	A	A

LIAISON REPRESENTATIVES

Steve Floerchinger, MD, FACS Chair, Committee on Trauma, Alaska Chapter, American College of Surgeons	A	A	A	A
Romayne Kareen, Project Assistant, Highway Safety Planning Agency, Dept. of Public Safety	A	A	A	A
Ron Parkhouse, Lt. Col., Commander, Rescue Coordination Center	A	A	A	A
Wayne Rush, Federal and State Planning Division of Emergency Services, Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs	A	A	A	A
Frank Sacco, MD, Dir. of EMS, Dept. of Surgery, Alaska Native Medical Center	A	A	A	A

GUESTS:

STATE SECTION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH and EMS STAFF

Mark S. Johnson, Chief, Section of Community Health and EMS, Div. of Public Health, DHSS
Matt Anderson, Manager, EMS Unit, CHEMS Section, Div. of Public Health, DHSS
Martha Moore, Research Analyst, CHEMS Section, Div. of Public Health, DHSS
Shelley K. Owens, Health Program Manager, CHEMS Section, Div. of Public Health, DHSS
Doreen Risley, Health Program Manager, CHEMS Section, Div. of Public Health, DHSS
Zoann Murphy, Admin Clerk, CHEMS Section, Div. of Public Health, DHSS

EMS REGIONAL STAFF

Sue Hecks, EMS Coordinator, Kenai Peninsula, Southern Region EMS Council, Inc.
Daniel Johnson, Executive Director, Interior Region EMS Council, Inc.
Gary Judd, EMS Regional Coordinator, North Slope Borough Fire Dept.
Aggie Lie, EMS Program Manager, Maniilaq Association
Bobbi Leichty, Executive Director, Southeast Region EMS Council, Inc.
Curt Madison, Director of Education, Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation
Debbie McCravey, Southern Region EMS Council, Inc.
Michael Owens, EMS Director, Norton Sound Health Corporation
Skip Richards, EMS Coordinator, Chugachmiut
Teresa Seybert, EMS Coordinator, Bristol Bay, Southern Region EMS Council, Inc.
Ronni Sullivan, Executive Director, Southern Region EMS Council, Inc.
Fred Watson, EMS Coordinator, Village Operations, Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corp.

ALASKA COUNCIL ON EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

MINUTES

Thursday, April 20, 2000 – Juneau, Alaska

Chairman Charles Lean called the meeting of the Governor's Alaska Council on Emergency Medical Services (ACEMS) to order at 9:06am. A quorum was present. ACEMS members Don Hudson, Dorothy Jones, and Allan Schlicht were absent.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION 1: To adopt the revised agenda of April 20, 2000.

(Steve O'Connor, Terry Bunes)

ACTION: The motion was approved with amendments approved by consensus.

Chair Lean mentioned that a card was going around to be signed for Anne Haydon.

MOTION 2: To adopt the minutes of the September 9-10, 1999 ACEMS meeting.

(Steve O'Connor, Terry Stone)

ACTION: The motion was approved with a comment upon the uniqueness of the minutes.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

This report was postponed until after Karen Pearson's report.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Peter Nakamura was out ill and unable to attend. Karen Pearson brought greetings from the division and the Commissioner who will be here tomorrow. She mentioned on a personal level how much EMS is appreciated by her. Injuries and deaths bring home that the folks ACEMS represent do hard work. ACEMS is here to advise them, and it is important to all that the network the state counts on is invisible until needed. The structure has to be in place before it is needed. The division commends the Council and Regions, those who advocate for this service that we need and depend on. What else can the division level do to support ACEMS and fund the extraordinary Code Blue project? Funding won't come from one source, but many. There has been feedback to the division: let's not wear out the staff and to look to the whole division for more staff support over the next few months. Please take back to your communities our profound thanks for what they do in the field.

There was some general discussion about the on-going need for a statewide Training Coordinator and the importance of continuing to search out funding sources.

Matt Anderson commended Karen Pearson for her work in searching out alternative funding projects. The ACEMS Board sent Dr. Nakamura best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Chair Charles Lean mentioned the importance of keeping in mind potential conflicts of interest during the meetings. As the Ethics officer, he needs those issues brought to his attention.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Charles Lean gave the report. He participated in a teleconference with the legislature, on behalf of ACEMS, hoping that the Legislature would fund the Phase II part of the telecommunications project. Since the September 1999 ACEMS meeting, the Chair has written:

To Anne Haydon thanking her for her service to ACEMS.

REVIEW OF ISSUES IN REPORTS FROM ACEMS LIAISON REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS AND CHEMS SECTION STAFF

Dr. Sacco was unable to attend and did not send a report.

Wayne Rush was unable to attend, but provided a written report which is in the board packet.

Mary Moran, Romaine Kareen's supervisor, was unable to attend. Matt Anderson remarked that the CHEMS office appreciates Ms. Moran's hard work.

Technical Assistance Team Activities Report

Matt Anderson distributed a report summarizing the 1999 Highway Traffic Safety recommendations. He then went over the recommendations and listed the department's priorities. High priorities include: funding sources, the training coordinator position, the EMS personnel survey that should be completed by September meeting, and transportation resources.

Moderate priorities include: Public safety approvals; technology exploration and use, a new staff person, Lisa Harlamert, is starting on April 27; the Locum Tenens program (Alaska Share-a-Medic) report is in the packet; regional dispatch problems; Emergency Medical dispatchers to become certified; and Public Information and Education.

Low priorities include: the task force on HIS; medical direction (statewide standing orders will be done and online by May); analysis of utilization of resources; and the EMT mentoring program.

Things completed: goals document in revisable format; and the EMT-I curriculum.

The facilities recommendations resulted in a discussion on whether those recommendations are ones to spend time and resources on. There is belief that problems are well known at the local level. Funding may become available. Matt remarked that knowing where the deficiencies are means that they can be fixed easily.

Communications recommendations and trauma systems will be covered by Mark Johnson later in the meeting.

There was a brief round of introductions.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND EMS (CHEMS) SECTION REPORT

Mark Johnson, Chief of the Section of CHEMS gave the report. Primary care focuses on access to care for rural areas. Alice Rarig has moved to the Data and Evaluation Unit. ACEMS and EMS need to be involved in the Healthy Alaskans 2010 document development. The department wants to put together a comprehensive state health plan, and it may be possible to use the EMS Goals Document to formulate that plan. There is a program called Alaskan Exposure where medical students are placed in rural areas of Alaska. Health Promotion has block grants and funding to work on promotion and prevention programs. Garry Lowry, a prevention specialist from CDC, is working on the cardiovascular disease prevention program.

There is to be a major revision of the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) study. Risk factor identification is to include seat belt use. There is more information in the packet. A copy of an article published in "Alaska Medicine" on firearm injuries among children and adolescents in Alaska was distributed. This study used data from the BRFSS. Tobacco control has been very active in setting priorities. Money is available from CDC and State general funds, but we lost funding from the federal government for the enforcement program. The chances of getting funding for EMS from the tobacco settlement are slim.

EMS Communications: We have received almost \$500,000 to upgrade EMS communications. We have put in a new system for Interior highways and repeaters in the northwest part of state. We are now working with the Mat-Su Borough to plug gaps and find problems. Now there is a deficit in funding. Rates are going up with the costs of charge-backs. The Legislature has approved approximately \$240,000 to fund telecommunications. The telecommunications partnership plan group is working with the administration and committee to put together an RFP to get private entities to take over state telecommunications systems, including radios, telephones, etc. There is a capital request for funding for EMS communications. Prince of Wales is one place that needs to get funding to find and fix gaps and

replace equipment. Update on the Iridium phone project: the state bought 50 iridium phones, as a solution for rural communications. The iridium system has failed for financial reasons. There have been offers for partial refunds. Mark distributed a handout for a similar system that may be a solution. The Land Mobile Migration Project (LMMP) focuses on remote, rural, and underserved areas (Anchorage, Mat-Su, Kenai, and Fairbanks). The FCC has a ruling that says we are to migrate to narrow-band frequencies. This is not much of a problem in Alaska. We are trying to coordinate between governments to put together an integrated communication system (at the Miller's Reach fire this was a big problem). The price is in the \$40-80 million range. Highway call boxes: DOT can use federal funds to fund the call boxes; DOT can fund equipment but not charge backs.

Trauma center certification: We have the authority to certify trauma centers in Alaska and now have Alaska Native Medical Center as a Level II trauma center. Fairbanks, Juneau, Ketchikan are possibilities for future trauma center certification. Levels II and III require a national team review, then the routine will be for us to give certifications. For Level IV certification, we have a team that we can send to rural hospitals. We will continue to work with the hospitals, and the surgeons have agreed to support trauma center certification.

There was discussion on the diversion policy being active in Anchorage. Mark Johnson and Barbara Simonsen are currently on Alaska Injury Prevention Center board. Barbara Simonsen is president.

BREAK

There was a break at 10:50am. The meeting was reconvened at 11:06 am.

Mark Johnson continued his report. He distributed a list of current EMS legislation. HB108, the boating safety bill, has passed out of the Senate finance committee. This bill has the state taking over responsibility for boating safety from the Coast Guard. It will enable the state to get federal funds for a boating safety program. HB438/SB295, retirement for EMS moving into public safety program, had hearing. HB137 is the municipal dividend program to provide funds for EMS. HB440/SB261 adds requirements for employers to conduct product evaluations of needleless systems and sharps injury protections. HB282/SB187 requires helmets be worn when riding off-road vehicles. Mark mentioned that we have to make sure that the legislature understands that we still need EMS grants, even with additional funding sources. It doesn't look like the EMS bills will pass this session, but they will probably be reviewed again next year.

EMS Program Report

Matt Anderson passed out a handout and then discussed the issues including: new staff members Shelley Owens and Zoann Murphy; Y2K's good preparation and outcome; and the revision of the EMS database system. He commented on the Interior EMS symposium and gave special accolades to Karen Peterson; Barrow's training committee meeting (thank you to Gary Judd and the rest of the North Slope staff); and to the Southeast Symposium's Pet Emergencies class.

The bioterrorism team has \$800,000 to use for bioterrorism activities in Alaska. The team is working with other agencies to make sure EMS supports other areas (police, troopers, fire, etc.).

The Health Alert Network is funding computers for some of the regions: Southern, Southeast, Interior, Norton Sound and Maniilaq.

Glennallen Technical Assistance Team trip: Matt Anderson, Shelley Owens, Ronni Sullivan, and Sue Hecks reviewed the area service and wrote a report patterned after the NHTSA report. Matt asks the regions to call if they have need of a team.

Thanks to Bobbi Leichty, Rob Janik, Charlie Lean, Dan Johnson who testified for the communications bill. Thanks to CHEMS staff, especially Larry Bussone, for work on grants. A handout on certifications was passed out. Shelley Owens is now doing the ground and air medical services certifications.

The EMS for Children Award press release is in packet. Many thanks to all who have worked on the state's EMSC program.

Rewrite of the EMS website: it will have a shorter URL and database access. Matt passed out a handout on the ACEMS web page.

Upcoming events include EMS Week, May 14-21, 2000 and the State Symposium in November.

Goals include: ensuring wise use of funds to support statewide activities, state staff to increase information distribution and communication with ACEMS.

BREAK

There was a break for lunch at 11:45 am. Reconvened at 1:06 pm.

Alaska EMS for Children Project

Doreen Risley gave the report. She handed out information on the Alaska Natives grant activities; partnership grants; EMSC task force members; the training plan which is finalized and now has all levels (CHA to Physician) included; needs assessment; five-year plan; and a school nurse program flyer.

The state run report form has been completed. She asks that all should encourage the use of the state form. Shelley Owens has them available for distribution.

Other activities: the pediatric protocols were put together for EMT-Dispatcher use. The revised trauma guidelines are still in progress; medevac manual; pediatric emergency care instructor manual is on hold for training committee approval; and a BLS medevac manual was put together. EMSC has distributed \$25,000 for equipment arranged through Southeast and Interior. EMSC has subsidized one ATLS class and two positions to become ATLS instructors. Southeast did a Planning to Avoid Childhood Emergencies (PACE) course. We have \$19,000 to spend on pediatric equipment for services. Regional managers and services are to turn in list of needs by May 15, 2000. A pediatric Technical Assistance Team went to Glennallen.

Training: PALS classes and prehospital care course were funded. The roll out on pediatric education course (PEPP) class was held at Interior Symposium. We had the first class in Alaska after the roll-over from National. There is a new grant to expand PAT teams to Interior and Southern regions. We hope to do a self-study program/training for prehospital providers. EMSC is funding an emergency school nurse course. A Public Service Announcement on EMSC for EMS Week featuring Fran Ulmer is in process. Doreen has sent out packets to all agencies for EMS week. She will be doing an additional issue of RESPONSE. We have a contract with Alaska Native Medical Center for two PALS and two EMPC courses in rural Alaska. We will be funding training for EMTs to become ETT instructors. A Letter of Solicitation is out to get support for ETT courses in high school. We will try to fund four ETT courses through the fall. In the grant to focus on kids with special healthcare needs, that focus needs to be on training, then on getting parents to let the EMS system know that kids are out there.

Telecommunications: needs to include a contract to evaluate and place videophones in rural clinics. All surveys on pediatric equipment needs are back from rural clinics, CHA clinics and hospitals. There is a meeting next month of the task force that will focus on priorities.

Data collection: There is a contract with Alaska Native Medical Center to collect ER data to improve our data capabilities. Need to get funding for equipment and software for Native communities. Matt Anderson mentioned that EMS is not represented on the new review committee. City trauma meeting in Anchorage found an increase in number of child abuse cases. Should we get more training for prehospital providers?

EMS TRAINING COMMITTEE REPORT

Steve O'Connor distributed copies of minutes from the Barrow training meeting. The Training Committee will be meeting next week. The EMSC training plan was handed out. The January meeting recommended passing on to ACEMS to approve new EMSC training plan. Model Standing Orders, trying to help develop letter of solicitation for distance delivery of EMS class and ETT classes. Matt Anderson reported that our training program remains strong and is a credit to the regional offices. The Training Committee is putting together a Model Course Materials for instructors to modify to use in their

classes. From the neuroscience center, comes a revision of how head injuries are treated – no more hyperventilation. Requested \$2 million at national level to come out of NHTSA.

REGIONAL EMS COORDINATORS MEETING REPORT

Ronni Sullivan said that the regional coordinators met Tuesday and it was a productive meeting. The group looks at reports from all of the regions and finds what the common issues are, then discusses those issues in a problem solving environments. Discussion followed on the current legislation and the effect that the tax cap will have on EMS. The Municipal dividend program was discussed. The Committee made suggestions for an RFP for a two-year grant. The Committee talked about ways that changes could be made to the RFP, but still handle needs. Discussed need issues that come up too often on transport protocols/handoffs either from one service to another, or from ground to air. The Committee is looking for guidelines for services to make changes. The Committee finished up their meeting by having an election of new officers: Gary Judd, Chairman; Mike Owens, Vice-Chair; Terry Stone, Secretary. Ronni thanked the group for the opportunity to serve, and said that she will remain active in the group. Chair Charlie Lean gave a thank you to Ronni for always being there for the group.

BREAK

There was a break at 2:04 pm. Reconvened at 2:28 pm.

PREHOSPITAL DATA COLLECTION PROJECT

Matt Anderson said that CHEMS now has a full staff with data collection experience; agencies helped get funding on this. The block grant will pay for some of the EMSC program and the Rural Hospital Flexibility Program. He gave handouts on the data collection project and the bioterrorism issues. The “Gold Standard” was the NHTSA data set which can be downloaded from our website. Shelley is going to collect the data for the prehospital care system. Martha got the project off the ground and put together an Emergency Medical Services Information Systems workshop in January. There was a workshop on how data can be gathered, followed by one-day workshop to allow vendors to present their information. Monthly reports go directly to the Fire Marshal’s office (Sunpro system module). The system we put together allows data to be obtained through EMS 2000 as well as from the Sunpro system. The CHEMS office sent surveys to all services asking about service and if they want to apply for funds for software or hardware. The results were prioritized based on known needs and on applicability of funding. We tried to match funding sources with needs. People are resistant because they can’t see value to themselves. This is long-term process – need to get one or two successes. Handouts were distributed on the reports generated by the software. The goals are to be able to more effectively advocate for the EMS system in Alaska. It is important that people understand these programs are most effective at the local level. The data collection project is one for ACEMS to see and act on data found. Medicare problems, billing questions, data protection problems, and trauma review committee responsibilities were discussed.

BREAK

There was a break at 2:59 pm. Reconvened at 3:08 pm.

POISON CONTROL PRESENTATION

Jacki Dapkus, from Providence Alaska Medical Center, distributed handouts on Poison Control Center certification, Poison Center Enhancement and Awareness Act of 1999, and a policy statement on Poison Control Services in the US. She then gave a presentation on Poison Control Centers and discussed Alaska’s situation. (PowerPoint presentation handouts from Jacki are in the official ACEMS Board Meeting packet.) Discussion followed on the question of assigning a task force from ACEMS. Item to be added to tomorrow’s agenda. General thank you to Jacki.

COMMUNITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT

Pat Carr discussed several issues regarding primary care and health promotion. She gave out information on the Denali Commission, including community surveys and funding issues. She said that there is a need to get EMS input into this process. There are public work sessions coming up: in Anchorage on May 1st, at Providence Alaska Medical Center; in Juneau on May 3rd; in Kotzebue on May 8th; in Bethel on May 17th; and in Fairbanks on May 19th. A representative from ACEMS should be at each of those sessions. Pat Carr gave an update on the Rural Hospital Flexibility Program which was established to create critical access to hospital care. Alaska received \$380,000 to implement program. Another \$180,000 came in to the program. There is a proposal due May 24th for next year's funding. We are hoping for \$400,000 to fund all the programs. Pat Carr asked for ACEMS input into how we want to shape goals and objectives for next year. Goals listed: development of a rural health plan for state; designation of critical access hospitals; strengthen EMS; and quality assurance. We need to look at rural EMS and system of care in communities. Matt Anderson discussed the need to enhance trauma, treatment, transfer, transport guidelines and for management training, recruitment and retention activities. Discussion followed on ideas and review of critical access hospitals.

RECESS

At 4:45 pm, Chair Charles Lean called for a recess until 9:00 am, Friday, April 21, 2000.

ALASKA COUNCIL ON EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

MINUTES

Friday, April 21, 2000 – Juneau, Alaska

Chairman Charles Lean called the meeting of the Governor's Alaska Council on Emergency Medical Services (ACEMS) to order at 9:03 am. A quorum was present. ACEMS members Don Hudson, Dorothy Jones, and Allan Schlicht were absent.

There is a card being passed around for Dr. Nakamura. There will be a letter to sign this afternoon for Carleta Lewis. Copies of interactive CD "behavioral emergencies," Medevac manuals, dispatch booklets, and other handouts are available.

Chair Charles Lean added the Planning Committee report to the meeting agenda to follow David Thomson's report.

INJURY PREVENTION UPDATE REPORT

David Thomson passed out handouts and reviewed the Injury Prevention programs. We are trying to find as many injury prevention programs that are going on around the state and join them. SAFE KIDS is trying to start up in Petersburg. We are looking for mini-grants for local areas. Martha Moore is working with Sue Hargis on Kids Don't Float. We have 180 boards around the state. There is a need to find out who else needs personal floatation devices. Nursing has a strong injury prevention program in Juneau, pushing rural injury prevention with Native corporations. The last injury prevention plan had no baseline data for Alaska on use of helmets. Ron Perkins has been helpful in orienting focus, as well as helping with fire prevention. Smoke alarm distribution is proving to be very volunteer-intensive. 600 alarms have been put in the Yukon-Kuskokwim region. There was a hearing in the House Resources Committee on the use of safety helmets. There is hope that bills will get reintroduced. The bill on boating safety is on the floor today and should make it through. The Board packet has a copy of the mailing that was sent out to clinics, etc., on recall announcements. An article on regulating the use of snowmachines in Anchorage was added to the Board packet. The EMSC grant does have an impact on injury and suicide prevention. There will be an injury prevention track at the EMS symposium; we are now looking for quality ideas; to solicit training ideas; and to find learning experiences for EMS personnel to complement symposium.

Discussion followed on fire alarm installation, bike helmet law, snowmachine helmet regulations, and the need to get more information on injury prevention into communities. Charlie Lean reported that Nome has seen better compliance with helmet and protective gear under the program.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Charlie Lean distributed information on Internet links for ACEMS issues. Discussed a need for another strategic planning session. The Strategic Plan is due to expire; three- and five- year plans are in the past. At the fall meeting, there should be a workshop on strategic planning with a short business meeting to follow. Martha Moore needs more surveys in from ambulance services. The statewide EMS data plan implementation was discussed. It is a great plan to help services with billing. The school nurse training program was discussed.

COMFORT ONE PROGRAM REPORT

According to Matt Anderson, the program was developed in 1996 by amending the living will legislation. It is a statewide, out of hospital, Do Not Resuscitate system. There is no funding for training or implementation. The program has regulations associated with it to provide protocols for prehospital care providers. EMS personnel have become familiar with the program. While hospice, home care, and senior services know about it, hospital personnel don't know about the program due to lack of staff and other

issues. Comfort One should be an ACEMS priority and personal priority. Concerns were raised that some hospital ERs aren't familiar with program. Matt reported on school district difficulties, the fact that the legislation didn't cover the locations where the program is effective. School nurses perceive that the bill doesn't apply in school settings.

Discussion followed on liability issues, parental responsibility for informing students on deaths, who is a "health care provider," definition of Do Not Resuscitate, and Comfort One.

BREAK

There was a break at 9:59 am. Meeting reconvened at 10:10am

Presentation for Anne Haydon

Letter of thanks read by Chair Charles Lean. A gift was presented to Anne by Barbara Simonsen.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Karen Perdue discussed the Code Blue project. She thinks it's a good investment for the state. Seven million dollars from the federal government can make a difference in many communities. She asked that ACEMS please thank everyone in the regions for their letters of support; Lieutenant Governor Fran Ulmer and Senator Ted Stevens were impressed. What we don't have is an obvious place for obtaining funding for Code Blue. There are federal government agencies involved in rural development for funding ambulances; we possibly can coordinate with them to fund Code Blue. The focus on safety of kids is important to her. She was impressed by the EMSC award. The press release on product recall got a big response. She reiterated that the emphasis on children's safety is important. There is another federal project on children being requested. The Medical Examiner situation improves. She has grown to appreciate the efforts of the EMS system.

Matt Anderson said thanks to the Commissioner for her support. He would like some specifics on the marketing project.

Discussion followed on awareness of EMS issues at the state and local levels.

Mark Johnson thanked the Commissioner for her time and attention to this one issue in her vast area of responsibility.

REGIONAL EMS PRESENTATIONS

Interior Region

Dan Johnson presented handouts and discussed the membership organization. The goals are to increase membership and increase participation in membership committees. Interior Symposium had a pediatric emphasis, the PEPP course was very successful; thanks to Matt Anderson and Doreen Risley for their support. There were 130 participants in Symposium, much better than last year. The Career Achievement Award was presented to Carleta Lewis. There is a new rescue squad at the Alcan Border Station. Northway has a revitalized squad after a five-year dormancy. There is a Rescue Squad beginning in Chicken. A new highway communications system was initiated in the Interior. Next year, he will hopefully be reporting similar success on Parks and Richardson highways. EMS squads are all ready to use the new repeater sites. Links have been set up to dispatchers and to hospitals. New radios are on order for the helicopters to be able to talk to civilian responders. Regarding the continuation grant: it is increasingly difficult to maintain viable squads in some areas. Local areas and communities are having a hard time getting training. Site visits are happening to target areas that are struggling. There is increasing local support to public services with the state/municipal sharing dividend program. Capitol equipment is in crisis. They are finding that BTLS training and Medevac training are not happening. They are seeing top quality Medevac services, but a decreased need for squads to get Medevac training. The new medical director is Dr. Dan Robinette, a surgeon in Fairbanks. He has interest in organizing and activating sponsors for squads. His leadership will organize medical directors and better communications among them. Discussion followed on communications issues; call boxes, cellular systems, chargebacks.

Southern Region

Ronni Sullivan presented a combination status report and overview of grant report. SREMS now has all of the staff positions filled. Levi Goody is the new Public Information and Education staff member; he will focus on keeping EMS in the public vision. They have eight different grant requests within document: eight different regions with different goals and objectives. They have finished the regional standing orders at all levels this spring. These are available on disk for physician sponsors to modify as needed. The Planning to Avoid Childhood Emergencies (PACE) instructor training is a community education class for anyone who takes care of children. It was developed for EMS providers to teach in local communities. Funded by EMSC money, the presentations have now been redone. TAT evaluated the entire sub-area of Copper River; it was a good process. Long response times to and from scene are difficulties still to be met. Thanks to the sub-area coordinators for their support for the Code Blue project. Have recently assumed from Interior the statewide management of BTLs program. It is still active in Southern region. They have started a new Community Training Center at Southern Region. The Symposium was the big project of year with 600 registrations. They are beginning to work on next year's symposium; it is expanding every year. We need to make a commitment to a three- or four- day symposium and plan for it that way. SREMS coordinated logistics of EMS data workshop.

Objectives: Ronni Sullivan noted that projects come along that are not reflected in reports or objectives. She commented that work was being done that is not documented. The Traumatic Brain Injury project and the domestic violence program are important projects, but take time from other projects. Continuation grant: the objectives are similar to last year. It targeted some communities this year, some last year. The challenges are increasing costs such as health insurance and airfare, postage, shipping, and operations costs keep increasing. They are trying to generate increased project income (25-30% of budget). There has been an increase in Certifying Officer training and costs. They had to raise rates for travel to communities.

Strengths of system: the local systems, first responder systems, volunteer EMS services, as well as the paid services, are really committed. She finds that the Sub-area system works very well in Southern Region. The staff knows what's needed in their areas. Thanks to Sub-area coordinators for their hard work. The Mat-Su Borough and Anchorage don't come to Southern for grants, but do tremendous job in their areas. The Southern Region office staff was commended. Three systems have started back up in Bristol Bay. Kenai Peninsula has substantially changed in the past year. The general trend is seeing communities turning around to the positive. Discussion followed on the Prince William Sound area and the opening of the Whittier tunnel.

Southeast Region

Bobbi Leichty gave the report. Things done well: there were military exercises held in Southeast, the Northern Edge had 1500 military personnel in Sitka. The SEREMS Symposium was excellent, but they had to drop the search and rescue track from symposium. They will be working with the Coast Guard to avoid that problem next year. The EMS for Pets pre-symposium course was very popular. The clinical track was excellent. They are working very closely with SEARHC, which has both rural clinics and Medevac programs. Mike Motti and Bobbi got together and discussed what works, what doesn't, what is needed in communities. What is expected from a BLS service? They found that unincorporated villages are not getting the funding that they need for EMS. EMS programs are taking a big cut. Communities are having to do private fundraising.

Data collection: SEREMS has gotten many returns from the community assessment survey. Information from that survey, as well as from the state ambulance survey, is now in database form. Bobbi attended the PEPP course and anticipates starting pediatric training. Next year's symposium is going to be based on disasters and will be centered on the SE disaster plan. Instructors are still having problems with the EMT-B curriculum.

Communications issues: in 2003 there will be no use of the radio system for the U.S. Forest service repeater sites. Prince of Wales is all built around those repeater sites. EMTs don't have radios with narrow band frequencies. All radios in ambulances, base stations, clinics will have to be changed. Wrangell uses the Forest service for search and rescue.

Plans for next year: 65% of the budget is covered by the grant. There will be no quarterly newsletters. SEREMS will be cutting personnel if funding isn't found. They are looking for corporate funding for the symposium. It is possible that clinical circuit courses might be funded by corporations. There has been an increase in requests by schools for bloodborne pathogens training, identification of and what to do with sick kids, drug abuse issues training, and injury prevention. SEREMS needs to develop a curriculum for these issues. Goals were mostly met from last year.

New objectives: Symposium; develop a database for activities; quarterly mailing list updated; plan to improve communications with instructors, managers, and government agencies that work with squads; create SEREMS website; begin revision of ETT curriculum with wilderness slant; work on increasing pool of wilderness instructors.

Discussion followed on having defibrillators placed in small communities, data, salaries, and budget issues. Matt Anderson made special recognition of Bobbi's hard work.

BREAK

There was a break at 11:46 am. The meeting was reconvened at 1:06 pm.

Maniilaq Association

Aggie Lie reported that the grant application was passed out yesterday and that they had just received the application last week. The office is fully staffed now. They are in the fourth year of teaching ETT classes in the high school, with nine graduated this year. They are planning to have EMS Week activities including: a babysitting clinic, free CPR class, spaghetti feed, and car washes. The repeater site, a joint venture between Nome and Kotzebue, will be ready in July.

Extra-curricular activities: a sexual assault response team; Local Emergency Planning Committee meetings; critical incident stress management workshop (50 people went through course); Basic Trauma Life Support class is going on now with 15 people. The first EMT class was held in Selawik, and nine people went through it. The new physician sponsor is Dr. Alice Tse. They continue to organize disaster drills. One drill, on Feb. 22nd, was a camp setting to test communications and mutual aid agreements. Good knowledge gained with this disaster drill at the camp.

Grant continuation: the cost is 25% for the Indian Health Service this year. Of the state funding, \$121,000 is going to personnel, mostly trainers.

There was some general discussion about the babysitting course, search and rescue, disaster drills, and injury prevention.

Norton Sound Region

Mike Owens turned in a report that gave an overview of activities. Direct patient care is the focus. The office is fully staffed with two new positions filled. They are in process of remodeling the office. They are busy with classes in Nome, with community as well as health aide training. Villages still have requests for CPR/first aid training and injury prevention classes (fire and water safety). Bike rodeos are getting the helmet concept out to the public. There was an ETT class in Unalakleet, which has been very supportive of the ETT program, as well as search and rescue programs.

Repeater program: Granite Mountain. will be online this summer. Haystack is in place but has technical problems, will be fixed when weather permits. These repeaters were purchased with state funds. There is now a local ham group working with EMS and communications have been significantly improved. St. Lawrence Island will be very expensive to bring online. There is a huge need to get the repeater system in place. They had a disaster drill in December to test the airport system. Then, in February, there was an incident at the airport and no communications were available.

Norton Sound hospital continues to work to get preparation for JACHO survey this fall; this will affect clinics as well as the hospital and will also look at ambulance services.

Funding: there is a framework that Norton Sound tries to work with, but nothing formal in place for funding by Board.

Discussion followed on funding difficulties and billing issues.

North Slope Borough Region

Gary Judd distributed his revised grant application. North Slope has had good accomplishments. Got IHS funding which covered what was requested. The Native Corporation is looking at funding issues. This year, the EMS infrastructure is safe. Some modifications were made in the budget – not going to fund minigrants this year. Now have two village EMT instructors. Just finished EMT course in village, and had another village ETT course. Wainwright should have course information coming in. First aid and CPR instructors are now in many villages. Funding has gone for new equipment, training equipment to get for classes. The Training Committee came to Barrow in January. In process of replacing their training coordinator. No changes to goals or objectives. Will meet all goals and objectives for 2000. Village instructor course has meant revitalization in program. Two village responder services will become fully certified ambulance services and others that are close to that status. One service will be part-time ALS service. Prevention program has a fire presentation and robot to go to health fairs. First aid and CPR programs do prevention. Pediatric training is overdue, waiting to see what state will endorse as standard, then will get all providers trained. Have trained over half the North Slope population in CPR and first aid. Efforts continue with 911 access issues, how to respond to emergencies, when to call EMS. Have very informed population as to what EMS is and how it works. Matt Anderson said thanks from the training committee for the excellent meeting.

Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation EMS

Curt Madison gave the report, he oversees EMS Training and Health Aide training. It has been a very productive year, even though staffing turnover has created shortages. Have a coordinator position open. Hired three new trainers. Trying to get stable staff, then trying to move into wilderness courses, they desire practical, hands on training. 190 health aides are the backbone of the EMS system; 120 aides are now EMT certified. They have a new building in Bethel with nice training area which has courses almost constantly. Yukon-Kuskokwim area has hours, and sometimes days, in response times. There are 50 villages in three different languages and ecological systems. Very dependent on telecommunications. Built computer network in villages, they now have electronic communications with all clinics that are Internet capable and have email daily. Want to build up distance delivery and have all health aid programs and EMS onto distance delivery system. Low-orbit satellites will be useful. They can spend \$2 million a year on telecommunications.

Facilities: EMS and CHAP has worked to get equipment lists and fill those requests. Patient forms to get online. Revising CHA manual. Created CD-ROM version and have it in a .pdf format.

Public Education: radio station/TV station has show devoted to preventative health. The High school has courses and a career day for outreach. Don't have to publicize that EMS is a useful thing, but there are not enough connections for people to get help they need. Whoever is near gets the call in emergency – don't have to advertise. Don't have many trained units. Aniak has trained fire department and search and rescue. Bethel has search and rescue, wants to increase number of search and rescue units. Need training and telecommunications for search and rescue. There are 20 major searches every year (major search = three days).

Goals and objectives: same as last year. Next grant will focus on search and rescue, training, gear and support. Need transport vehicles that will work: sleds behind snowmachines or four-wheelers. Expect to get 20-25 search and rescue groups operational – want to get those sleds for the groups. They test medics in teams so that people can practice designating and delegating activities to each other; this is more realistic with what occurs in Delta.

Discussion followed on air medevacs, sub-regional clinics, and telecommunications. Have hired three new staff members: Clarence Richardson, Vicki Green, John Dickens.

MOTION 3: That ACEMS recommend to the Commissioner that after reviewing grants today and listening to region reports, that the grants be awarded and funded at the same level, or more, as last year.

(Steve O'Connor/Terry Stone)

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF GRANT REGULATIONS

Matt Anderson said that the regulations are going to take more work. Can be deferred to training committee in the interest of time.

GRANT PROCESS –STATUS AND IMPROVEMENT

Matt Anderson said that the grant process is under competitive grants description, some competition exists. Discussion on content control, conditions for grant awards, scheduling for grant applications, earlier RFP date, one- or two- year plans, simplifying grant plans, writing grants to the same standard, possibility of sending out and submitting grants electronically to save on printing costs. Larry Bussone in the office does the grant applications process. Chair Charles Lean said that Matt will send copies to ACEMS members with ideas for the grant application process, gives Executive Committee a chance to comment.

BREAK

There was a break at 2:40 pm. Reconvened meeting at 2:56 pm.

STATE SYMPOSIUM PLANNING REPORT

Doreen Risley passed out handouts on ideas for symposium. Will be doing Airway Theatre as the opening session. American Heart Association courses to include: two BLS rollouts, two PALS, one ACLS class. At the pre-symposium, we will do a two-day PEPP course. Doreen asked for other ideas on presenters. Is there interest from EMS personnel on injury prevention? Discussion followed including ideas for focusing on injury prevention for EMS providers, tactical defense, safety, health and protection issues.

Received official declaration of State EMS week.

ALASKA TRAUMA REGISTRY REPORT

Martha Moore announced that the following handouts were available: summary of 1998 annual EMS survey, statewide summary of all that responded, information requests, and the data collection update chart. Made some changes to EMS survey for this year, the plan is to change the service information questions each year. Asking about significant exposures, do agencies have access to Internet, and how increased revenue sharing will affect regions. Trauma registry is more up to date on data collection. Thirteen hospitals have collected data up to 1999. Getting more proactive in contacting and offering assistance. Anchorage hospitals have trauma coordinators that collect data as part of duties. If hospitals go after certification, trauma data collection becomes standard part of duties. Send out newsletters every month to registrars. Information requests on: child abuse cases, helmet bill, the snowmachine injuries article got data – 20 snowmachine deaths since October, also drowning info, sports, sledding, burns. There is a strict policy on giving out data. The Trauma Registry Review Committee felt strongly that this was important.

TBI grant: Diane Saltee resigned and Martha is taking over specific duties. Planning to set up contracts to collect data. Will collect special head injury data through two special contracts. Will try to draw specific head injury data through trauma registry.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION 4: – ACEMS vote to accept recommendation of training committee and Pediatric training plan.

(Steve O'Connor, Barbara Simonsen)

ACTION: Passed unanimously.

The ACEMS letter of interest in the Alaska Poison Control Center will be through Charles Lean, Matt Anderson, and Barbara Simonsen. Jacki Dapkus needs to get clearance through hospital. Barbara Simonsen will work as liaison.

MOTION 5: – ACEMS take on the task with the expert assistance of the state office that we promote and evaluate the need for poison control center in the state of ALASKA.

(Karen O'Neill, Terry Stone)

ACTION: Passed – unanimously.

Pat Carr brought in information on public hearings of the Denali Commission.

MOTION 6: – Move that ACEMS have a 2-day strategic planning meeting prior to the 1-day ACEMS board meeting in the fall of 2000.

(Terry Stone/Steve O'Connor)

ACTION: After discussion including concerns about sufficient time for board meeting and the purpose of the strategic plan, passed unanimously.

MEMBER STATUS REPORT

Chair Charles Lean distributed handout on current ACEMS members. Recommendation for nomination: Mark Barker to the training committee. Discussion followed.

MOTION 7: - to accept nomination of Mark Barker to the training committee.

(Barbara Simonsen, Terry Bunes)

ACTION: accepted unanimously.

Discussion on terms, vacant position on ACEMS board, staff member on PIE committee.

DATES FOR NEXT MEETING

After discussion on various dates, the following dates were approved for the next ACEMS meeting: Task forces will meet Monday, October 2, 2000 in the afternoon. Regional Directors will meet on Tuesday, October 3, 2000. Strategic Planning will take place on Wednesday, October 4 and Thursday, October 5, 2000. The full ACEMS meeting will take place on Friday, October 6, 2000.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3:57 pm, Chair Charles Lean called for adjournment. There was no dissension.